

Message Text

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41

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9348

UNCLAS MONROVIA 1749

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OGEN

SUBJ: FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 58287

1. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LIBERIA, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, HAVE FOR YEARS CUTOMARILY HELD THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION ON THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY. CLIMATE HAS DICTATED THE TIMING SINCE FEBRUARY FALLS IN THE MIDDLE AND THE BEST OF THE DRY SEASON. JULY IS GENERALL THE WORSE OF THE RAINY SEASON AND IN A COUNTRY HAVING MORE THAN 200 INCHES OF RAINFALL A YEAR, AMONG THE WORLD'S HIGHEST, NO DAY DURING THE RAINY SEASON IS LIKELY TO BE FREE OF A DOWNPOUR.

2. THE CURRENT YEAR'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION WAS HELD AT THE VOA COMPOUND IN CAREYSBURG ON FEBRUARY 21 WITH A BICENTENNIAL THEME. ALL AMERICANS IN LIBERIA, RESIDENT OR TOURIST, WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS YEAR SOME 1200 U.S. CITIZENS ATTENDED. COST OF THE FESTIVITIES, INCLUDING FOOD AND DRINK, WAS PAID FROM CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY U. S. BUSINESS FIRMS AND THE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

3. ON JULY 4TH, THE AMBASSADOR TRADITIONALLY HOSTS A RECEPTION IN THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE GOL, HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AND LEADERS OF THE U. S. BUSINESS
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COMMUNITY.

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